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Sustainable development

South Africa:* draft resolution

Combating sand and dust storms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled, "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolution 68/213 of 20 December 2013 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Welcoming the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme for a regional programme to combat sand and dust storms, including the ministerial meeting held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013,

Acknowledging that, based on the well-defined notion of hazards in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, addressing the hazards posed by dust and sand storms contributes critically towards the achievement of the Framework's goals, targets and priorities of actions,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Acknowledging also that dust and sand storms pose a severe impediment to the sustainable development of affected developing countries and the well-being of their peoples, and recognizing the fact that dust and sand storms in the last few years have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia,

Emphasizing the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States and observer States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of dust and sand storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, welcoming the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting a regional meeting of environment ministers in Tehran on 29 September 2010, and stressing the need for strong political commitment and willingness, including through the holding of high-level meetings at the regional and international levels with the active participation of all countries, especially developed countries,

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust and sand storms through the development of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast dust storms and sandstorms, and affirming that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms depends on the provision of financial support and the transfer of technology and know-how from developed countries to developing countries, recognizing the importance of poverty eradication and the need for a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of dust and sand storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being, and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Recognizes* that dust and sand storms and their root causes pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, and underscores the need to treat them with a sense of urgency within the United Nations system and to promptly undertake measures to address these challenges;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations system, supported by related regional, subregional and interregional organizations, in promoting international cooperation to mitigate and contain this phenomenon in the affected developing countries, including through capacity-building measures, the implementation of regional and subregional projects, the sharing of information, best practices and experiences, the boosting of technical cooperation, the mobilization of necessary financial resources and the setting up of institutions, such as expert committee working groups, to formulate action plans and programmes to facilitate and enhance such cooperation;

3. *Requests* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and all other related organizations, to address this problem and contribute to the enhancement of capacity-building in the affected countries to combat sand and dust storms in accordance with national policies and priorities;

4. *Invites* States as well as the United Nations development system and related international organizations to actively cooperate with developing countries in implementing the goals, targets and priorities for action contained in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to address the multidimensional hazards, including dust and sand storms, which are considered to be critical impediments to sustainable development and the well-being of the people of the world in its entirety;

5. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations funds, programmes and organs, as well as regional organizations and commissions, to promote cooperation and mobilize technical expertise and financial resources to assist affected countries to address the impacts of sand and dust storms as well as their root causes;

6. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to share best practices, experiences and technical expertise in combating dust and sand storms and to formulate proposals to facilitate regional cooperation on this matter, with the assistance of their member countries;

7. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet, in an appropriate manner, the objectives set out in the present resolution;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session containing information and analysis of trends in the occurrence of dust storms, particularly in West Asia.